TANFIELD
URBAN DISTRICT
— COUNCIL. —

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT,

FOR
YEAR
1909.

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Harperley,
February, 1910.

TO THE TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to present your Council with my report upon the condition of the district in respect to :—(i) The Factory and Workshops' Act ; (ii) its Sanitary State ; (iii) the Amount of Sickness due to Zymotic Diseases and (iv) Vital Statistics for the year 1909.

The District practically depends upon coal-mining for its very existence. Whereas all factories, trades and general sanitary condition of the inhabitants come under the supervision of your Council, the mines are regulated by special acts. The past year has been a fairly prosperous one, and there was no necessity to give assistance to the unemployed.

Under the Factories and Workshops Act, it devolves upon the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector to see that all classes of workers have sufficient ventilation in their workshops, and that the sanitary additions are ample, also that the premises are free from overcrowding with easy means of exit in case of fire. The district contains 14 Factories and 21 Workshops. Examination shewed that the act had been carefully carried out and in none of the above was material injurious to health used.

SURVEYOR'S AND INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

The number of houses built during the year, gave a total of 56, all of which were self-contained, and consisted of 4 or more rooms. There were no tenemented houses built during the year. The new rows which have been built in Burnopfield are, to my mind, model workmen's houses.

OLD PROPERTY. It will be necessary to again call your attention to the insanitary condition of many old premises in your Council's area. Several of the more glaring defects have been remedied during the course of the past year, but more alterations are still needed.

HOBSON COLLIERY. The defects in connection with the out-offices are now being remedied, as new out-offices are in course of construction. The houses are in many cases being altered and repaired and made comfortably habitable.

DYKE HEADS. Consisting of 6 houses, have undergone considerable repairs and alterations and the Consett water has been laid on to these houses.

LINTZ VILLAGE. The defects in the various houses in this village are too numerous to particularize. Your Inspector himself inspected the village and took notice of all the defects which in many cases were trivial. Notice should be served upon the owners to remedy the defects and improve the approaches to the houses.

CLOUGH DENE. The majority of these houses are scarcely fit for human habitation. 6 of the houses in the valley are without back doors and are therefore imperfectly ventilated, and 3 of them are only single-roomed. Of 15 more houses situated on the hill, only 3 have through ventilation by means of back doors. The reason given for their non-improvement is that they are chiefly owned and occupied by old people, who feel loth to disturb the houses, but some improvement should be insisted on.

WHITE-LE-HEAD including CORVING HOUSES. These houses have all been reported in detail to your Authority, and although they have been patched up and made as presentable as possible, no structural alterations of any importance have been made.

TANTOBIE. In the old portion of Tantobie a similar state of affairs exist as in White-le-Head. These also have been reported in detail previously, without much improvement being effected.

There are several other minor improvements required in the other villages in your area, but the above are the most needful.

SEWAGE. The whole villages in your Council's area are sewered and out-fall works are attached. The various processes of filtration are fairly satisfactory and there is no cause for complaint.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE is done by contract under the supervision of your Inspector and is quite satisfactory. The refuse is deposited where it creates no nuisance to the inhabitants.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES are occasionally visited and found satisfactory. The various requirements are carried out.

MILK SUPPLY. The Milk Supply is from door to door. The premises of the various cow keepers are fairly decent as regards byres, lime washing, &c. None of the cows are entirely stall-fed.

WATER SUPPLY. This is abundant and of good quality.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following cases of Notifiable Diseases were reported during the year, viz., 94 of Scarlatina, 26 of Diphtheria, 5 of Enteric Fever, 1 of Pueperal Fever, and 28 of Erysipelas, making a total of 154, which is a large increase on last year, due almost entirely to Scarlatina.

SCARLATINA. Although the number of cases reported were large, yet this disease never assumed epidemic form. Your Council's action in enforcing removal when complete isolation is not possible, will no doubt have a beneficial effect in lessening the spread of this disease. In spite of the large number of cases, the mortality was nil.

DIPHTHERIA. As regards Diphtheria, the same action is taken as with Scarlatina. The number of cases shewed a slight decrease on last year.

ENTERIC FEVER compares favourably with last year. There were 5 cases reported this year against 10 for the previous year. The cases seemed to have no connection with one another, and there was no evidence to shew how the disease was acquired. All of the cases were treated in the Hospital. Of the 126 cases suitable for Hospital treatment, which occurred throughout the year, 72 were transferred to that Institution.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MEASLES. Measles invaded the district on two occasions, in May and September. On the first occasion it was considered advisable to close the schools at Burnopfield, Leazes, Pickering Nook and Flint Hill. On the second, Causey and Tanfield were closed. In spite of the large number of cases, there were only 4 which ended fatally.

WHOOPING COUGH never became really prevalent in the district, and resulted in only one death.

DIARRHŒA and EPIDEMIC ENTERITIS visited as usual during the summer months, leaving 3 fatalities.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year amounted to 363 of the former and 125 of the latter, giving a birth-rate of 35·94 and a death-rate of 12·3 per 1000, estimating the population at the end of June at 10,100. Compared with last year the birth-rate is slightly lower, and the death-rate considerably lower, but in comparison with the County, the birth-rate is slightly above and the death-rate considerably below the average. The mortality from Zymotic Diseases was very light, being as follows: Scarlatina, 0; Diphtheria, 3;

Enteric Fever, 1; Puerperal Fever, 2; Measles, 4; Whooping Cough, 1; Diarrhœa and Epidemic Enteritis, 3, making a total of 14. Infantile Mortality-rate is below that of the County, but the number of deaths under one year is about one-third of the total. Premature birth and Atrophy were responsible for half of the deaths of Infants.

The following table shows how the various rates of this district compare with those of the County.

	County.	Tanfield.
Birth-rate (per 1,000 population)	35·5	35·94
Death-rate ,, ,, ,,	15·7	12·3
Zymotic death-rate ,, ,,	1·61	1·38
Infantile Mortality (per 1000 births)	124	121·2
Small-Pox (per 1,000 population)	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever ,, ,, ,,	0·09	nil
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	0·17	0·29
Enteric & Continued Fever ,,	0·12	0·09
Measles ,, ,, ,,	0·37	0·39
Whooping Cough ,, ,, ,,	0·25	0·09
Diarrhœa ,, ,, ,,	0·59	0·29
Phthisis ,, ,, ,,	0·91	0·79
Other Tubercular Diseases ,,	0·73	0·79
Acute Respiratory diseases ,,	2·38	1·78

For particulars, see Government Schedules attached.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. BENSON,

Medical Officer.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
TANFIELD.

Table I.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous Years,

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institu-tions in the Dis-trict.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.						
		Number	Rate.	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.				Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1899	7,900	319	40·3	44	138	135	17			1	135	17
1900	8,100	318	39·2	61	191·8	141	17·4			8	141	17·4
1901	8,300	354	42·6	52	146·8	138	16·6				138	16·6
1902	8,500	319	37·5	46	144·2	149	17·5	1	1	3	148	17·4
1903	8,700	306	35·1	57	186·25	150	17·25	7	7	2	143	16·4
1904	8,900	312	35	63	201·2	172	19·3	10	10	4	166	18·6
1905	9,000	294	32·7	53	180·2	152	16·9	14	10		142	15·8
1906	9,100	295	32·4	43	145·7	128	14·07	15	9	5	124	13·6
1907	9,300	320	34·4	38	118·7	142	15·2	9	7	3	138	14·8
1908	9,600	355	36·99	38	107	142	14·8	9	7	9	144	15
Averages for years 1899-1908.	8,740	319	36·6	49	155·9	144	16·6	9	7	3	141	16·2
1909	10,100	363	35·94	44	121·2	138	13·6	20	17	4	125	12·3

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 6650

Total population at all ages 8276
Number of inhabited houses 1632
Average number of persons per house $5\frac{1}{8}$
At Census of 1901.

Table III.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1909.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upward	
Small-pox ...								
Cholera ..								
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup	26		7	16	2	1		19
Erysipelas ..	28	2	1		6	18	1	
Scarlet fever ...	94	1	30	58	4	1		48
Typhus fever...								
Enteric fever ...	5				3	1	1	5
Relapsing fever								
Continued fever								
Puerperal fever	1				1			
Plague ...								
Totals ...	154	3	38	74	16	21	2	72

Isolation Hospital at Tanfield.

Total available beds 74.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4 or 5.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—

Tanfield Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—

Lanchester Union. County Asylum.

Small-Pox Hospital at Maiden Law, now used as a Sanatorium.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District—NIL.

Table IV.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or non Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox								
Measles	4	3	1					
Scarlet fever								9
Whooping-cough ...	1	1						
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...	3		3					6
Croup								
Fever { Typhus ...								
Fever { Enteric ...	1					1		5
Fever { Other contin'd								
Epidemic influenza ...								
Cholera								
Plague...								
Diarrhœa	3	2	1					
Enteritis	4	1	2			1		
Gastritis								
Puerperal fever ...	2				1	1		
Erysipelas								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	8			1	3	4		
Other tubercular diseases	8	4	2	1	1			
Cancer, malignant ... disease	4					2	2	
Bronchitis	6	1	1			1	3	
Pneumonia	11	2	4	1		4		
Pleurisy	1				1			
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...								
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of liver } ...								
Venereal diseases ...								
Premature birth ...	5	5						
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...								
Heart diseases ...	11				3	5	3	
Accidents	2		1			1		
Suicides								
All other causes ...	47	25	4	1	1	7	9	
All causes ...	121	44	29	8	12	28	17	20

THOMAS BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health*

February 16th, 1910.

Table V.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Years of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1–2 Weeks.	2–3 Weeks.	3–4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1–2 Months.	2–3 Months.	3–4 Months.	4–5 Months.	5–6 Months.	6–7 Months.	7–8 Months.	8–9 Months.	9–10 Months.	10–11 Months.	11–12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Yr.
All Causes	Certified																	
	Uncertified																	
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox																	
	Chicken-pox																	
	Measles										1					1	1	3
	Scarlet Fever																	
	Diphtheria : Croup ...																	
	Whooping Cough ...										1							1
Diarrhœal Diseases.	Diarrhœa, all forms ..														1		1	2
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	1				1												1
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																	
Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth ...	5				5												5
	Congenital Defects ...	2	1			3												3
	Injury at Birth																	
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation																	
	Atrophy, Debility Marasmus	10	1	1		12	2	1							1			16
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis																	
	Tuberculous Peritonitis Tabes Mesenterica									1		1				2		4
	Other Tuberculous Diseases																	
Other Causes.	Erysipelas																	
	Syphilis																	
	Rickets																	
	Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*																	
	Convulsions	1				1		1						1		1		4
	Bronchitis																	1
	Laryngitis																	
	Pneumonia												1		1			2
	Suffocation, overlaying...																	
	Other Causes			1		1		1										2
		19	2	2		23	2	3		1	2	2	1	1	3	4	2	44

Births in the year {legitimate 349. illegitimate 14.}

Deaths in the year of {legitimate infants 41 illegitimate „ 3}

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.		Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	14	28	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	21	42	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces			Nil.	Nil.
Total	35	70		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Nil.

3.—HOME WORK.

Nil.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Factories 14, Workshops 21 Total 35

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

T. BENSON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

February 16th, 1910.